

## President's report 2009/10

This has been a very long year. With the change in our financial year to align ourselves with Swimming Wellington's, it has in fact been a 15 month year. It has also been a good year for our swimmers with record numbers qualifying for national and regional meets. We have had the most swimmers ever qualifying for Div II and National Juniors and equal to previous NAGS. We also have more swimmers than ever qualifying for Short and Long course. This is fantastic and I believe the club is now in a good position to guide itself into the future and be the best vehicle for achievement for every swimmer, irrespective of being competitive or not. I will report on the various aspects of the club structure. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

### Membership

The swimming membership has been steady, our numbers have not increased or decreased. We have lost a few senior swimmers through natural attrition but at the same time gained some juniors. All in all, this is a good thing as we really do not have enough space should numbers go up dramatically and lane space is already at a limit as it is. When we finally get a new pool our numbers are expected to dramatically increase, but the coaches and club are prepared for this eventuality.

A special word of thanks to our Patron, Joan Matson. She has supported us and worked hard behind the scenes to see the club succeed in every way and she carries our name in the community with pride.

I also want to acknowledge Bill Matson for his outstanding achievements. Bill was this year recognized for his outstanding contribution to swimming by being awarded an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Bill is also one of the Vice Presidents of FINA and to have him associated with Raumati Swimming Club is an absolute privilege and honour. Congratulations Bill and thanks for your continued input and assistance.

### Fees

We have structured the fees for Bronze to Senior for all squad swimmers and all fees are now billed monthly rather than quarterly like before. Unfortunately, we have had to increase the fees in some cases. This is a simple fact of economics for the Swim Club - to enable it to operate in positive territory and ensure that there still is a Swim Club in 12 months and thereafter. Our coaching costs and various other costs around national meets has increased naturally, and funding in the form of sponsorships and grants has dramatically decreased. This has left the club in the position where we had to use reserves put aside for the clubrooms at the new pool to make ends meet. This is not sustainable and a prudent business practice and therefore has to be rectified.

## Coaching

We have maintained a great team of coaches - Jim, Mike, Jason and Brogan work well to get our senior swimmers ready for the challenges they face. Our Tuesday coaches are now mainly made up out of our senior swimmers, apart from the learners pool where we have valuable input from people that has the right skill set to teach the little ones the basics. I would like to thank all coaches from the top down for the work they have put in to our swimmers. We have also invested in a Fastlane to assist coaches with ironing out technical faults in our swimmers and this has already proved very valuable to a lot of the swimmers that has been using it. This was a very necessary investment in our swimmers and to add value to their training and practice as well as and instrument for coaches to teach technical aspects of certain strokes by using video and other visual feedback.

## Competitive squad

We took record numbers of swimmers to Juniors, NAGS and Div2 this year. All swimmers swam great races and way beyond expectations. There where no incidents and the club was well represented. The number of young swimmers at Div2 was a great sign that the squad is in good shape. We now have lost Christopher and Ivana as the senior competitive swimmers (year 12) but Nick has come back after an absence. We have a relatively young squad and most competitive in the 14 and 15 year age group. This is exciting as those will be the senior swimmers in the next 2 years. With the group of juniors in the 11 to 13 age group coming through, expect a lot more medals and FINA points in the near future.

I would like to thank all parents that assist in either Team Management or Officiating, as without you, the club will not be able to fulfill its obligations and there would be no competitive squad. For those that want to get involved but doesn't know how to, please talk to me as soon as possible.!

## Kapiti to Mainland Swim

We had a great event this year with 15 swimmers participating. It was well organized and run and our sincere thanks go out to Paul Matson and the team of Committee members and senior swimmers that helped on the day. This is a historical event and the club should always run, or help to run this iconic event. Paul has already offered to assist next year and we as a club will be there to help. It may form part of the open water series which will boost numbers. This event is not about profit but continuing an event that is part of the club. We also had 2 of our own swimmers swimming in the event and want to congratulate Adam Dyhrberg on his 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Well done Adam. I personally would like to see more of our swimmers participate in this event next year and the club get involved and make this a memorable event next year.

## Committee

We have had a few changes on the committee. Several key people have moved on or are taking a sabbatical. Paul Norris, thanks for your leadership over the last 6 years. You deserve a break! Yvonne Mansell has decided to step away from the Secretary roll that she so diligently and efficiently has done for ages. Thanks Yvonne! Lizette van den Berg has had to jump in at the deep end and learn the Race Secretary job in a record time. She has done fantastic and ensured that our entries are in on time, people informed and records up to date. Brilliantly done Lizette, thank you! We have lost a few other members of the committee during the year for various reasons but we still maintained the core of the committee and some of us had to do more than one job to ensure things run smoothly. To all of those, I want to say a big THANKS!!

## Future

We are seeing it now - money is harder to make. If it's harder to make, it's less likely to be given. Each Div2 and NAGS family had to pay in excess of \$350 and this is partly due to us all taking funding applications for granted. We are getting a fraction of what we apply for as there is simply not enough money to go around. This just cannot carry on, so we need to actively get out there and raise funds. I want to see a fundraising subcommittee established that raise funds continually during the year. If you are interested, please make yourself available and talk to any member of the committee.

As a club we need a new pool - we don't want one, we need one. We are actively working with the new Aquatic Centre project and I ask every club member to put their hand up when asked to help. The pool needs to be built and it needs us to take a lead. We have to have an influence. If either the club or the aquatic centre trust asks for help, please think hard about the answer. Myself has been asked to join the Aquatic Trust to represent the interest of the club and has accepted. This is a big step forward and allows us to play a more active role in the future of the new pool.

## Summary

It's a good club with good coaches, good parents and even better swimmers. It's a family club and about positively encouraging our swimmers to better themselves. Thanks to everybody for helping to achieve this. Raumati Swimming Club has ALWAYS punched well above its weight and will continue to do so with the talent and resources we have. If there is one thing I want to encourage, it is communication. When you come in to pick up your swimmer from practice, come inside, have a chat, get involved. This is your club as well...

Awie van den Berg – Acting President

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